AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please substitute the enclosed Fig. 5 for the corresponding figure filed on August 19, 2003. Fig. 5 has been amended to correct an obvious error in the connection of capacitor 57b in the originally filed figure. An annotated sheet showing the change also accompanies the replacement sheet. Both sheets are attached to the end of this paper.

REMARKS

In this paper, claims 1 and 12 are currently amended, claim 11 has been canceled, and claim 23 has been added. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1-10 and 12-23 are pending.

The specification and Fig. 5 have been amended to correct an obvious error in the connection of capacitor 57b. As stated in paragraph [0019], the purpose of diode 57a is to prevent reverse current when capacitor 57b is being charged. Reverse current clearly would not be blocked when capacitor 57b is connected as shown in Fig. 5. One of ordinary skill in the art would readily recognize that the current blocking direction of diode 57a is upward in Fig. 5, so capacitor 57b must be connected to the cathode of diode 57a to prevent the charge from flowing back out of capacitor 57b to the preceding portions of the circuit.

Claims 1-5 and 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Schwaller (US 5,247,430). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to add the features of claim 11. Schwaller neither discloses nor suggests using a composite power/control signal to operate the lamps RL or VL disclosed therein.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schwaller in view of Gohda (US 4,609,982). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reasons noted above.

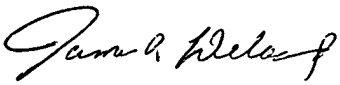
Claims 11-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schwaller in view of admitted prior art, Turner (US 2002/0014366) and Gohda (US 4,609,982). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

The feature of claim 11 has been incorporated into claim 1. Schwaller discloses a switching controller (1) that powers one or more lamps R_L, V_{L1}, V_{L2}, etc., wherein the power signal is pulsed to avoid overvoltage conditions. However, there is no reason why one of ordinary skill in the art would want to apply a composite power/control signal of the kind described in the Background of the Invention section of the application to the lamps, since lamps only use power signals and have no

use for control signals, let alone a control signal component of a composite signal. In other words, prior art lamps do not use control signals of the type described in the admitted prior art and therefore do not even have extra wires to save.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Deland
Reg. No. 31,242

DELAND LAW OFFICE
P.O. Box 69
Klamath River, California 96050
(530) 465-2430

Fig. 5